

(f) whether the policy of allowing privately produced News programmes while denying State Government to run regional channels constitute a sound policy?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) 2 hours 28 mts. per day. The details are as under:

1 hour—in house production

1 hour 28 mts.—Produced by private producers under Sponsored Category.

(c) Prasar Bharati has intimated that no such complaint has been received from the State Government by Doordarshan.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) The Government of West Bengal had made a proposal to start their own TV channel which could not be agreed to as it did not fall within the extant policy. As regard Doordarshan allowing privately produced programmes, decision on programmes and content are taken by Prasar Bharati on its own and the Government does not interfere in such matters.

Regularisation of floor assistants

412. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of floor assistants on casual basis in New Delhi working for more than 10 years;

(b) the steps taken by Government to regularise their services, so far;

(c) if answer to part (b) be in the negative, by when they are likely to be regularised; and

(d) whether Government have received any directive from the courts recently with regard to early regularisation of these workers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that there are at present 145 casual Floor Assistants at Doordarshan Kendra and Central Production Centre, New Delhi working for more than 10 years.

(b) and (c) The regularisation of the casual artists of Doordarshan, including casual Floor Assistants, is being done in accordance with their position in the

eligibility list and depending upon the availability of vacancies at the respective Doordarshan Kendras. The regularisation is in accordance with the provisions of the regularisation schemes framed on the directions of the Hon'ble CAT, Principal Bench, New Delhi. No time frame can be laid for the regularisation of the casual Floor Assistants working in New Delhi.

(d) Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi *vide* their order dated 21.11.2000 have directed the Government to review the situation to increase the number of vacancies for regularisation of casual Floor Assistants.

Setting up of TV Tower in district Shimla

†413. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the local residents of tehsil Chirgaon in Shimla district and several Members of Parliament have made a recommendation for opening of a TV tower there;

(b) if so, the details of action taken by her ministry in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up a TV tower there by the financial year 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Public demands are taken into consideration by Prasar Bharati while formulating plans for setting up TV transmitters in different parts of the country. Prasar Bharati does not have any approved scheme at present to set up a TV transmitter in Chirgaon tehsil of Shimla district. Expansion of TV coverage of different parts of the country including Chirgaon, would depend on future availability of resources and *inter-se* priorities.

Problems of cable TV viewers

414. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "consumer caught in the crossfire of channel wars" appeared in the Times of India (New Delhi), dated the 7th February, 2001;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.